

**South Dakota Risk Pool
Governing Board and Advisory Panel Meeting
Becker Hansen Building
Wednesday, February 13, 2008**

The meeting of the South Dakota Risk Pool Governing Board and Advisory Panel was held on Wednesday, February 13th at 4:00 pm at the Becker Hansen Building in Pierre, South Dakota.

Those in attendance included Chairperson Kathi Mueller, Vice Chair Tom Martinec, Randy Moses, Dave Hewett, Dennis Studer, Bob Clark and Mike Shaw. Others in attendance were Sandy Zinter, Jill Kruger, and Melissa Kusser. Those participating by conference call include Janet Griffin, Dr. Tom Krafka, Lonnie McKittrick, Jean Reed, Barb Smith and Rick Stracqualursi.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kathi Mueller. Mueller explained the purpose of the impromptu meeting between the Governing Board and the Advisory Panel was to obtain feedback on applying for the Federal Funding for covering the uninsurable.

Mueller summarized the approved minutes from the December 11, 2007 and January 29, 2008 meetings. Mueller explained that the Governing Board met on February 12th in preparation for the February 13th joint meeting. Minutes from the meeting were not yet available for distribution. There were no additional comments or questions about the minutes.

Mueller prefaced the meeting with an explanation that one of the Zaniya recommendations is to help those considered uninsurable. The Zaniya Task Force found that there were approximately 5,280 uninsurable citizens in the State of South Dakota. The Federal Funding opportunity available to the Risk Pool was not the answer to address all uninsurable persons in the State. Mueller encouraged the group to look at potential ways for the pool to move forward with the vision of Zaniya in mind. Members of the group believed things could be looked at on limited basis and that there could be a way to limit eligibility to ensure a safe expansion. Concerns were raised about expanding the Risk Pool based on one time federal funding among the group. Individuals believed it would be difficult to limit the criteria on this population.

The group was informed that 57 individuals have been enrolled out of the 132 available closed blocks slots in regards to SB 200. Current enrollment of the Pool has declined over the past 6 months with enrollment being at 710 in October and now currently at 675. With the potential implementation of SB 114 we could see even more of a decline on enrollment into the Risk Pool.

Randy Moses briefed the full group by acknowledging that the potential of federal dollars was brought to our attention on February 7, 2008, hence the impromptu meetings over the last couple days. The grant opportunity available to the states will be separated into two

pools of money. One will be for operational losses and the other for expansion matters. The expansion grant could be used to reduce premiums, expand benefits or expand eligibility. The expansion of the Risk Pool was in line with the goals of Zaniya. Documents distributed included talking points as well as potential legislative language on how to expand the pool.

There were numerous questions concerning the potential legislation. Members raised the issue of this only being a one time grant. Concerns were voiced on how this would be approached legislatively in such a short period of time, with so many unanswered questions. Conversely, some members were concerned that we would be leaving available federal funds on the table if we did not act on this opportunity to expand.

Mueller suggested the potential expansion could be a way to cover uninsurable children. This would be a way to narrow the scope of the expansion.

Dr. Tom Krafka had issues with the Governing Board having met three times since the last combined meeting, and just received minutes from the meetings. Jean Reed questioned the possibility of participating in meetings by conference call. Mueller explained due to the short notice of this meeting, it was necessary to allow members to participate by conference call for this meeting. Other Risk Pool meetings are scheduled with advance notice and she will continue to appreciate participation by attending in person.

Several members indicated they would not support legislation of this sort at this time as there were too many unanswered questions. Mueller explained to the group that she would brief the Governor on today's meeting and would notify the Governing board and advisory panel via email of the outcome. The Governing Board will not take an official position on behalf of the South Dakota Risk Pool on potential legislation that would expand Risk Pool eligibility.

At approximately 5:15 pm Moses made a motion to adjourn and a second was given by Martinec. Motion carried.